

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 0620

E O 11652: GDS
TAGS: BEXP OCON OVIP (KREPS, JUANITA M.) GW WB
SUBJ: VISIT OF SECRETARY OF COMMERCE TO BERLIN: PUBLIC STATEMENTS

REFS (A) STATE 064237, (B) STATE 065562, (C) USBERLIN 0553

1. IN VIEW OF SOMBER ATMOSPHERE SURROUNDING BERLIN WALL, IT
HAS NOT RPT NOT BEEN TRADITIONAL PRACTICE FOR HIGH-RANKING
AMERICAN VISITORS TO MAKE PUBLIC STATEMENTS DURING WALL VISIT.
MISSION RECOMMENDS THEREFORE THAT STATEMENTS BE OMITTED AT
THIS POINT.

2. PRESS COVERAGE OF WALL VISIT IS TRADITIONAL, HOWEVER,
AND IS RECOMMENDED. DETAILS TO BE WORKED OUT DURING PRESS
OFFICER BELL'S ADVANCE VISIT, MARCH 28-29.

3. OUR CHECKS OF MISSION RECORDS AND WITH SEVERAL LOCAL
AUTHORITIES HAVE YIELDED NO DEFINITIVE ANSWER TO QUESTION
WHETHER IN FACT THIS IS FIRST VISIT BY AN AMERICAN WOMAN
CABINET OFFICER TO BERLIN. FRENCH PROTOCOL OFFICER, WHO
HAS INSTITUTIONAL MEMORY OF 30 YEARS LENGTH, HAS NO
RECOLLECTION OF ANY PREVIOUS VISIT, BUT FRENCH RECORDS
INCOMPLETE. SUGGEST DEPT QUERY DEPT OF STATE HISTORIAN (P/HO)
AND OFFICE OF CHIEF OF PROTOCOL ON THIS.

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4. PUBLIC RELATIONS IMPACT OF CHARACTERIZING VISIT AS
FIRST BY AMERICAN WOMAN CABINET OFFICER COULD BE PLUS
BUT MUST BE ACCURATE. ALSO, POSSIBLE THIS FIRST BERLIN
VISIT OF U.S. SECRETARY OF COMMERCE SINCE WALL. FROM STANDPOINT
ALLIED INTEREST IN BERLIN'S ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL VITALITY, THIS
COULD BE USEFUL CHARACTERIZATION. MISSION CHECKING FURTHER ON

SECOND ASPECT.

5. BELOW ARE SUGGESTED DRAFT REMARKS FOR SECRETARY KREPS' USE AT GOLDEN BOOK CEREMONY:

MR. GOVERNING MAYOR, MR. AMBASSADOR, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

IT IS INDEED A GREAT HONOR TO ENTER MY NAME IN THE GOLDEN BOOK OF BERLIN. I AM TOUCHED BY THIS RECEPTION AND THIS CEREMONY, WHICH HAS GREAT DEAL OF MEANING TO ME AND FOR FREE PERSONS EVERYWHERE. IT IS AWESOME INDEED TO STAND IN THIS PLACE WHERE PRESIDENT KENNEDY STOOD SO MANY YEARS AGO AND TO REALIZE THAT NEARLY FIFTEEN YEARS LATER, THE SPIRIT OF BERLIN AND OF BERLINERS IS AS STEADFAST AS EVER.

THIS CITY AND ITS PEOPLE HAVE ALREADY MADE A DEEP IMPRESSION ON ME. YOUR DEDICATION TO DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES AND FREEDOM, YOUR WILL TO LIVE IN PEACE, LIBERTY AND PROSPERITY HAVE MADE BERLIN A SPECIAL PLACE FOR ALL THOSE WHO CHERISH FREEDOM. WE AMERICAN SHARE THESE HOPES AND PRINCIPLES.

IT IS NO ACCIDENT THAT BERLINERS AND AMERICANS SHARE PRESIDENT CARTER'S DEEP COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS. WE ARE PLEASED THAT THE 1971 QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT ON BERLIN HAS DONE SO MUCH TO HELP ALLEVIATE SOME OF THE WORST HUMAN PROBLEMS FOR BERLINERS. WE ARE HAPPY THAT THIS FOUR-POWER AGREEMENT HAS STRENGTHENED YOUR RIGHTS TO VISIT RELATIVES AND FRIENDS AND TO TRAVEL UNIMPEDED TO AND FROM YOUR CITY. WE
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STAND FIRMLY COMMITTED TO THE PRINCIPLES OF HUMAN RIGHTS AS THEY AFFECT YOU IN YOUR DAILY LIVES IN THIS DIVIDED CITY.

AS THE FIRST AMERICAN SECRETARY OF COMMERCE TO VISIT BERLIN (OR "IN MANY YEARS"), I AM ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN YOUR ECONOMY. I HAVE BEEN IMPRESSED ALREADY WITH YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND THE PACE OF BUSINESS ACTIVITIES HERE. IT WAS NO COINCIDENCE THAT THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN GERMANY WAS FOUNDED IN BERLIN. DURING THE COURSE OF MY STAY IN YOUR CITY, I WILL BE PARTICIPATING IN SOME OF THE CELEBRATIONS OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS FOUNDING. I WILL BE MEETING WITH ECONOMIC, BUSINESS AND POLITICAL LEADERS. BUT IN THE INSTANCE I HAVE COME TO BERLIN AS A FRIEND, AND TO RENEW THE COMMITMENT OF MY GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THE FREEDOM AND SECURITY OF THIS CITY. WE HAVE WORKED FOR AND WELCOMED EFFORTS TO REDUCE TENSIONS IN AND AROUND BERLIN AND INDEED ALL DEVELOPMENTS WHICH CONTRIBUTE TO YOUR FREEDOM, SECURITY AND PROSPERITY.

THE CLOSE TIES WHICH BIND BERLINERS AND AMERICANS TOGETHER ARE WIDE-RANGING. THERE ARE POLITICAL, SECURITY, ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL TIES. BUT IT IS OUR UNDERLYING DEDICATION TO FREEDOM WHICH BINDS US TO YOU, NOT ONLY IN OUR POLICIES, OUR ACTIONS AND OUR WORDS, BUT ALSO IN OUR MINDS AND HEARTS. THESE ARE THE LASTING ELEMENTS WHICH TRANSCEND ALL OTHERS. OUR COMMON WILL, OUR BASIC

DEDICATION TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOM BIND US TOGETHER IN A VERY
SPECIAL WAY. I AM PLEASED TO ACCEPT THE FRIENDSHIP OF BERLINERS
EVIDENT IN YOUR WARM RECEPTION ON BEHALF OF ALL THE AMERICAN
PEOPLE. IT IS IN THIS SPIRIT, THEN, THAT I SIGN THE GOLDEN BOOK
AND TAKE WITH ME A PROFOUND SENSE OF ITS TRUE MEANING FOR FREEDOM-
LOVING PERSONS EVERYWHERE.GEORGE

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